

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: August 17, 2005

Division: County Administrator

Bulk Item: Yes x No

Department: County Administrator

Staff Contact Person: Connie Cyr

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval of recommendation to the United States Board on Geographic Names to make official the names of Veterans Key & Melody Key for two separate islands located in the Florida Keys.

ITEM BACKGROUND: The United States Board on Geographic Names has requested the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners to review the proposed official names for two islands located in the Florida Keys and to recommend whether it should occur. The first issue (Veterans Key) was brought to the Board of Geographic Names by the President of the Historical Preservation Society of the Upper Keys. The second issue (Melody Key) was brought by a resident of Los Angeles who reports that he recently purchased the island and there is another key also named Money Key.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: The Board of County Commissioners has been asked in the past to make recommendations concerning official naming/name changes.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval.

TOTAL COST: -0-

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: -0-

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: Thomas J. Willi
(TYPE NAME HERE)

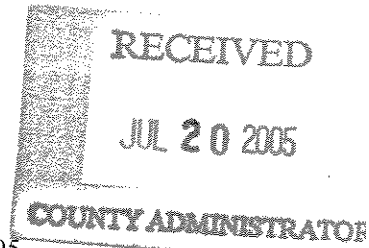
DOCUMENTATION: Included x Not Required

DISPOSITION: **AGENDA ITEM #**



UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

In reply please use this address:
U. S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523



July 18, 2005

Mr. Thomas Willi, County Administrator
Monroe County Board of Commissioners
1100 Simonton Street
Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Mr. Willi:

This is in reference to two proposals that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has received regarding the naming of two geographic features located in Monroe County. The first is to make official the name Veterans Key for a small island at Matecumbe Harbor, and the second is to change officially the name of Money Key, off the southwest end of Summerland Key, to Melody Key. As you might recall from our previous correspondence, the Board is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal government, and its members must approve any new name or name change before it can be applied to Federal maps and publications. Because local acceptance of any name is very important to the Board, we would like to know whether the Monroe County Board of Commissioners would be in support of these two proposals. We have also asked the Florida State Board on Geographic Names to comment.

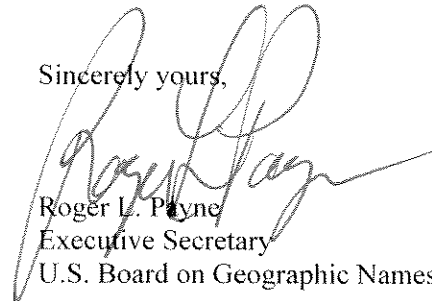
The proposal for Veterans Key was submitted to us by the President of the Historical Preservation Society of the Upper Keys, who reports that the name has come into recent local usage. The name is intended to honor those World War I veterans who were killed by the 1935 hurricane while working on the construction of the bridge from Lower Matecumbe Key to Fiesta Key.

The second proposal, to change the name of Money Key to Melody Key, was submitted by a resident of Los Angeles who reports that he recently purchased the island. Because there is another key also named Money Key just 25 km (15 mi) to the northeast of Summerland Key, he suggests the duplicate name should be eliminated. The proposed replacement name recognizes his association with the music industry.

We have enclosed for your review a copy of the two proposals, along with maps showing the features and two Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation forms to facilitate a response from your office. As soon as all interested parties have had an opportunity to comment, we shall present the proposals for Veterans Key and Melody Key to the U.S. Board for discussion and a decision.

Thank you for your continued interest and assistance in the geographic names of Monroe County, and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, either by mail at the address above; by telephone at (703) 648-4544; by fax at (703) 648-4549; or by e-mail at <BGNEXEC@usgs.gov>.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger L. Payne", written over the typed name and title.

Roger L. Payne
Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Enclosures



U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Geographic Name Veterans Key

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that

(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

Recommends that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names:

☐ **Approve the Proposed Name**

☐ **Reject the Proposed Name**

☐ **Take Action as Specified Below**

☐ **Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

(Name)

(Title)

(Address)

(_____)_____
(Telephone)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(E-mail)

(Signature)

(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523
Telephone: (703) 648-4544
Fax: (703) 648-4549
E-mail: bgnexec@usgs.gov



HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF THE UPPER KEYS

38 East Beach Road
Tavernier, Florida 33070

July 1, 2005

Roger Payne, secretary for the U. S. Board on Geographic Names
U. S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Va. 22092



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Brenda Altmeier

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Sally Bauer, PhD.

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Dear Mr. Payne:

I am not certain if you are still with the Board. Anyway, we in the Upper Keys would like to begin the process to name an un-named key. This was not an original Florida Key. In 1935, the federal government had about 750 World War One veterans building a bridge from Lower Matecumbe Key (MM 74) to Fiesta Key (MM 70), formerly Jewfish Bush Key, to replace the then ferryboats.

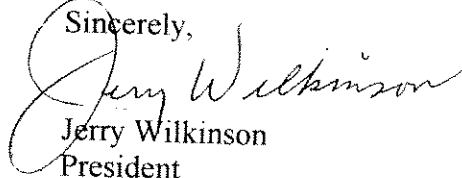
It is a long story and I can provide as much history as you wish. The end result is that the 1935 Hurricane partially washed away the bridge approach, damaged eight of the concrete piles and totally destroyed three veteran work camps. Of the WW-I veterans who had been building the bridge 259 perished. Sufficient material of the bridge approach survived to sprout growth and become a small "Key." Later hurricanes have added additional material. The only remaining artifacts of the work of the 750 veterans are the 8 piles and this rather large clump of mangroves forming a small island.

Locals have referred to the little Key of mangroves by many references. I have been promoting the name "Veterans Key."

The piles and a small oval are marked on most navigation maps for the Lower Matecumbe area the entrance to Matecumbe Harbor. The name is apropos in memory of the vets. See attachments.

Please provide guidance to progress through the process of having this name considered.

Sincerely,


Jerry Wilkinson
President

- Atchs: 1) Page E of Nautical Chart 11451, Edition 16, October 1978
2) Expanded view of attachment 1 above.
3) Page 308 of the book *Storm of the Century* by Willie Drye
4) Title page of the book *Storm of the Century*
5) Page 264 of *The Bonus Army* by Paul Dickson and Thomas B Allen
6) Title page of the book *The Bonus Army*
7) 1958 Florida Department of Transportation aerial photo of Veteran's Key
8) 1959 Florida Department of Transportation aerial photo of a portion of Veteran's Key and the exposed 8 concrete piles



305-852-1620

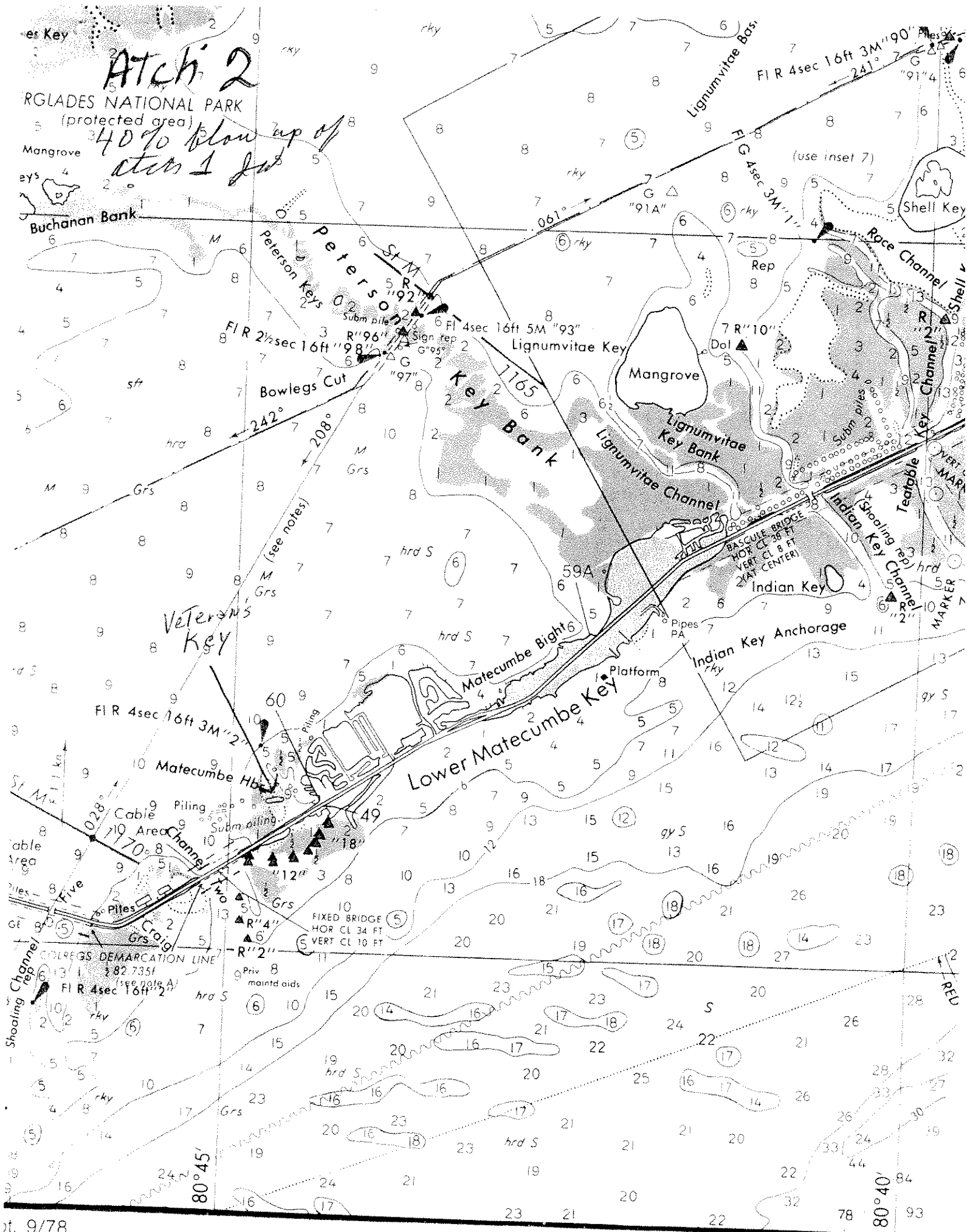
Visit our web site www.keyshistory.org

232
232

ATCH 2

FLA GLADES NATIONAL PARK
(protected area)

40% blow up of
Atlas 1 Jan



ATCH 3
* Page 308 of the "Storm of the Century"
Storm of the Century

Now the old piers are a hangout for cormorants. The long-necked birds perch on the concrete and spread their wings to dry during the day, and they roost there at night. Boaters who happen to be downwind of the piers as they cruise slowly past them can tell instantly that the cormorants have been roosting there for a very long time.

The causeway that was being built to link the bridge to Lower Matecumbe Key is overgrown with mangroves and other vegetation. A few of the locals refer to it as Veterans Island, but it doesn't have an official name.

epilogue

Next Time It

The mass grave in the Labor Day hurricane city's Little Havana neighborhood and if you drive to the ably hear the rhythms Cuban cuisine or hear a tions in Spanish to his

An American flag at The engraving reads: "E American Legion In Memory On The Florida Keys During It's a plea from the past, 1935. And in one sense, of the newspapers in South Day hurricane of 1935 on

It's always a compelling storm was a Category 5 hurricane classification given to the miles per hour and produced Only two hurricanes have their U.S. landfall. The other Coast in 1969.

Bernard Russell, who people about the fearsome these anniversary stories

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USGS 2 km NE of Craig, Florida, United States 25 Feb 1999



0 200M

0 200yd

Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

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U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES



GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Proposed Geographic Name Change Money Key to Melody Key

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that

(Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

Recommends that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names:

_____ **Approve the Proposed Name**

_____ **Reject the Proposed Name**

_____ **Take Action as Specified Below**

_____ **Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Comments (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

(Name)

(Title)

(Address)

(_____)_____
(Telephone)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(E-mail)

(Signature)

(Date)

Return to: U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523
Telephone: (703) 648-4544
Fax: (703) 648-4549
E-mail: bgnexec@usgs.gov

Proposed feature name: Melody Key
State or equivalent where feature is located: Florida
Is feature located in other states?: No
County where feature is located: Monroe
City, Town, Township where feature is located: island off of Summerland Key
Administrative Area where feature is located: Monroe County (?)
Action requested: Proposed New Name

Why does feature need a name?:

There is and "official" Money Key (A small key, located ocean side of the Seven Mile Bridge.) My island goes by that name

Feature type: island
GNIS feature?: Unknown

Feature description:

6 acre island: Located just off the southwestern tip of Summerland Key.
It has a 4000 sq ft house, generator, pool, solar, cistern, and many other top-of-the-line improvements.

Name information:

After extensive research I have found that my Money Key was never officially named that. It's just what people call it. Because there are two Money Keys and they are not far apart. I wish to end the confusion. I feel it's a safety concern in case of emergency. I wish to give it a name befitting the paradise of the island, Melody Key.

Feature elevation: 4 ft above sea level

Mouth or center of feature

Latitude: W 081 degrees 27.201
longitude: N 24 degrees 38.441

Source of feature

Latitude:
longitude:

Maps and other published sources using name:

None.

Other names used for feature:

None.

Is proposed name in local usage?: No.

Is there local opposition or conflict
regarding the proposed name: No

Additional information:

I am a musician. Melody Key is a play on words because it i
s a musical term. As
in, "major key" "minor key" "melody key." My island has bee
n featured on The
Travel Channel and The Wall Street Journal.

Organizations or individuals which support proposed name:

local residents
Mike Henry 305-797-1279
Cris Lesick 305-745-3084

Proposed By

Name: Nick Hexum
Street: 8495 Utica Dr
City, State and Zip: 90046
Email: djlofton@mac.com
Telephone: 3236542611
Fax Number: 3236502070
Title: Owner
Company or Agency: Hexum Key, Inc.

Submitted By

Name: Nick Hexum
Street: 8495 Utica Dr
City, State and Zip: 90046
Email: djlofton@mac.com
Telephone: 3236542611
Fax Number: 3236502070
Title: Owner
Company or Agency: Hexum Key, Inc.

Do you have additional materials to submit?: No

topozone

VIEW MAPS

GET DATA

MY TOPOZONE

WEB SERVICES

ABOUT US

HELP!

- Map/Photo Info
- Topo Download
- Photo Download

- USGS Topo Maps
- ☐ No topo basemap
- ☒ 1:24K/25K Series
- ☐ 1:100K Series
- ☐ 1:250K Series
- TopoZone Pro

- ☐ Shaded Relief
- ☐ Street Maps
- Aerial Photos
- ☐ Black and White
- ☐ Color Infrared

Map Size

- ☐ Small
- ☐ Medium
- ☒ Large
- ☐ Huge

View Scale

1 : 50,000

Update Map

Coordinate Format

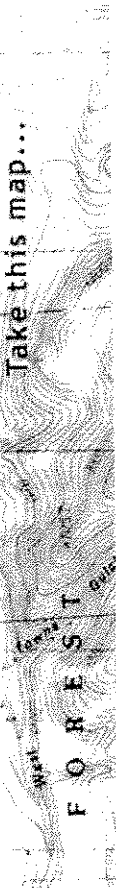
D/M/S

Coordinate Datum

WGS84/NAD83

- ☒ Show target
- Email this map
- Bookmark this map
- Print this map

Take this map...



24° 38' 27"N, 81° 27' 10"W (WGS84/NAD83)
USGS **Summerland Key** Quad
Elevation 9.8 ft / 3.0 m (USGS NED)



Geographic Names Information System Feature Detail Report

Feature
ID: **287061**

Name: **Money Key**

Class: **Island**

Citation: **Represents a feature name collected during Phase I. Variant names collected during Phase I are coded as US-M120/var.**

Counties

Sequence	County	State	Country
1	Monroe	Florida	US

Coordinates

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	24.6406996	-81.4528605	243826N	0812710W	Summerland Key

Mapping Ser

Click the link to
in the following

TopoZone.

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topographic

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Digital Orthorectified
an aerial photograph
map. Not available at
locations.

Tiger Map!
Census Bureau

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Agency.